

Supplement

Two Acridone Units in One Crown Ether Incorporating a Second Acridone

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¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra of the new compounds

Structural characterizations of the reported new compounds by NMR methods are shown in Figs. S1–S17.

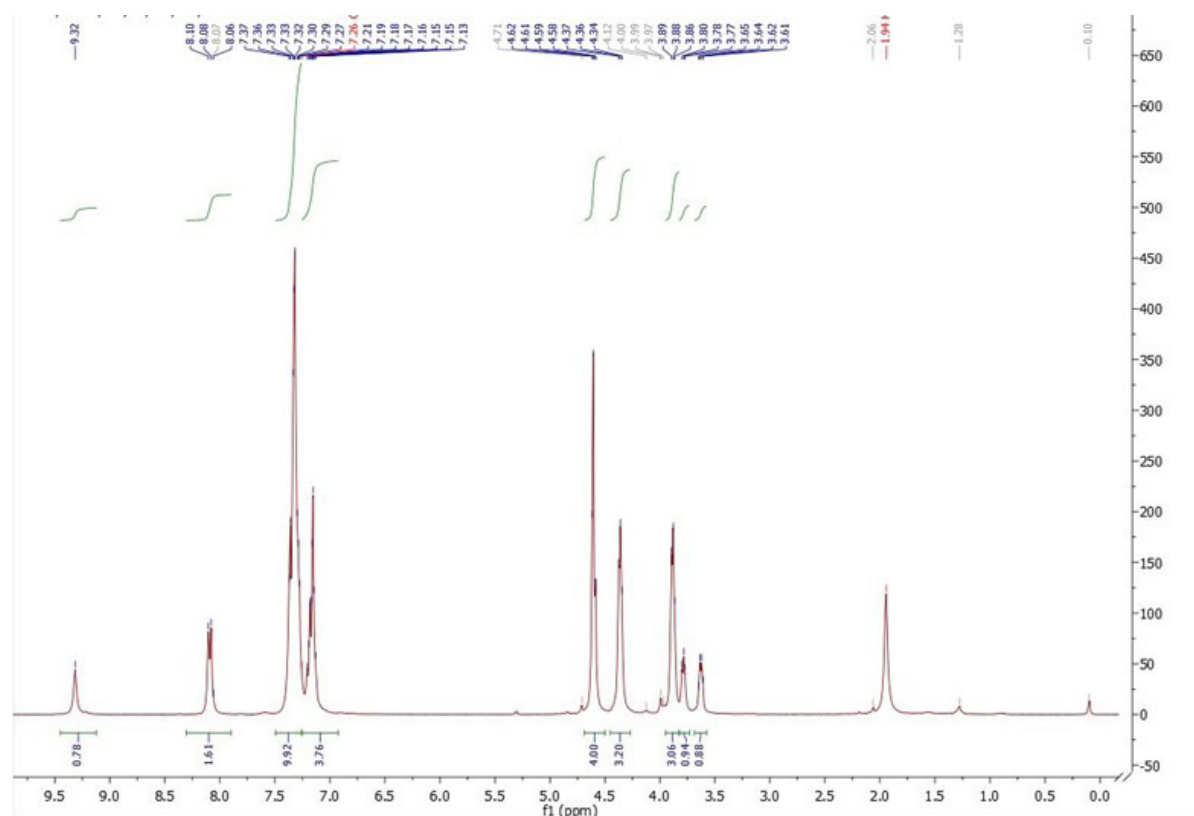


Fig. S1 ¹H-NMR spectrum of 6 (solvent: CDCl₃)

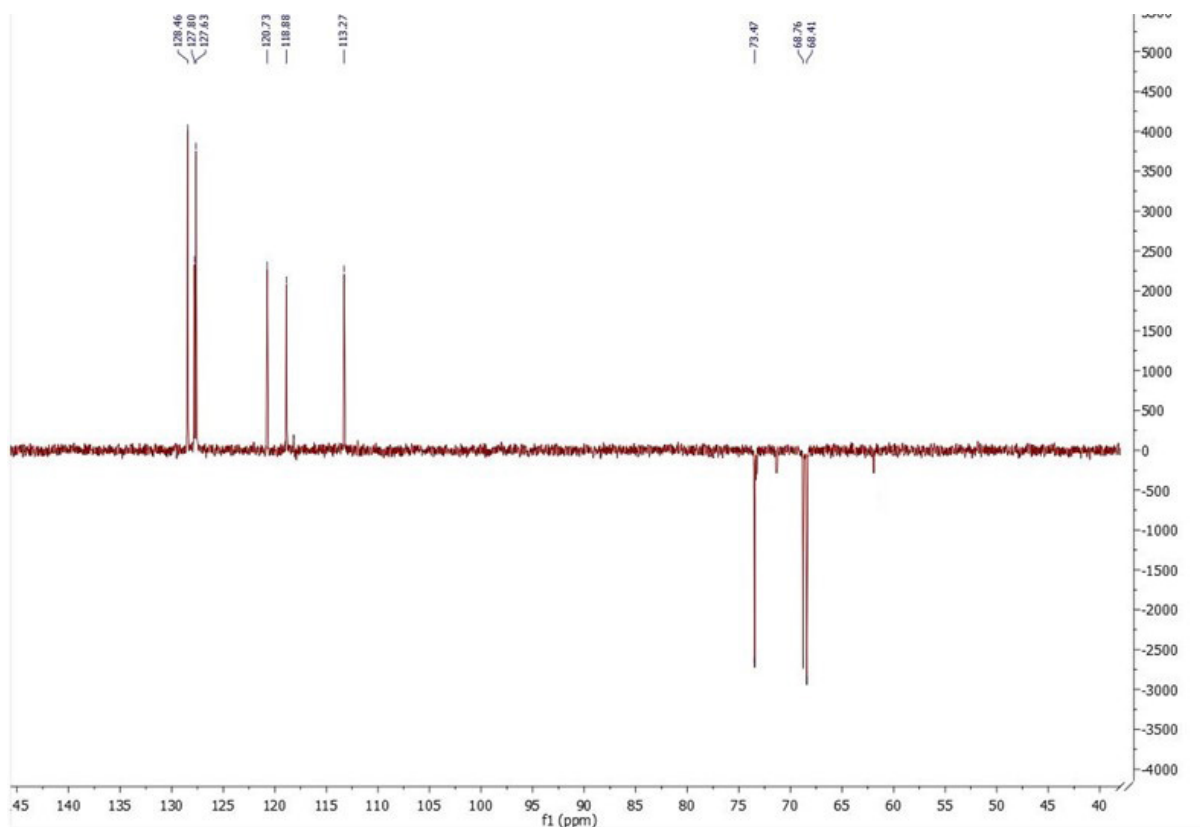


Fig. S2 ^{13}C -NMR spectrum of **6** (solvent: CDCl_3)

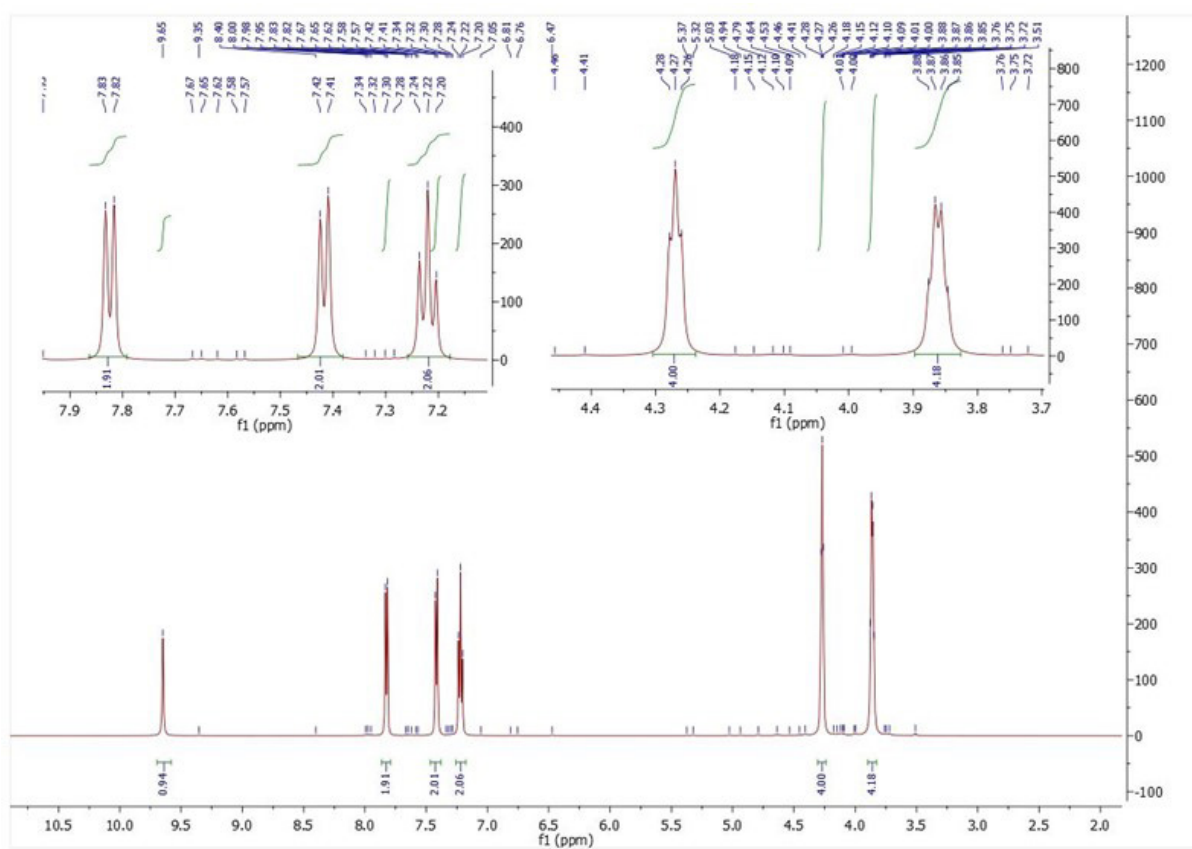


Fig. S3 ^1H -NMR spectrum of **8** (solvent: $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$)

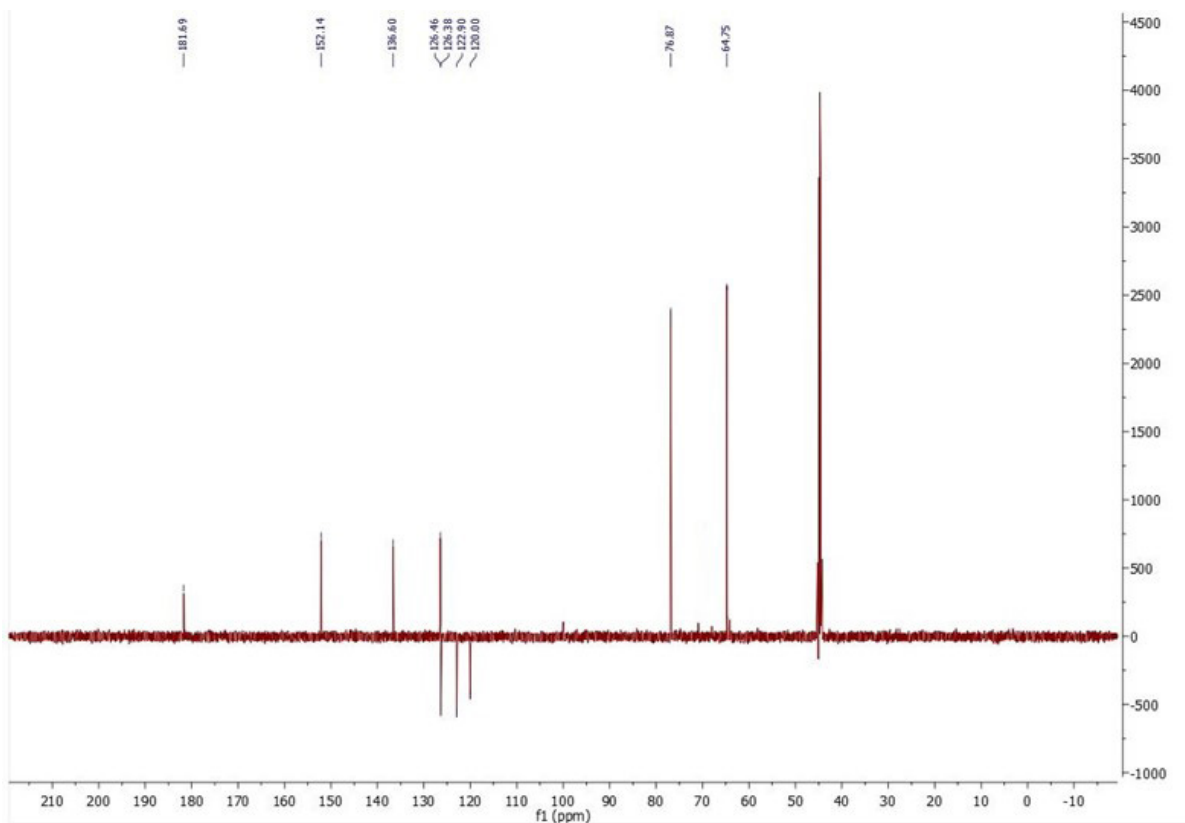


Fig. S4 ¹³C-NMR spectrum of **8** (solvent: (CD₃)₂SO)

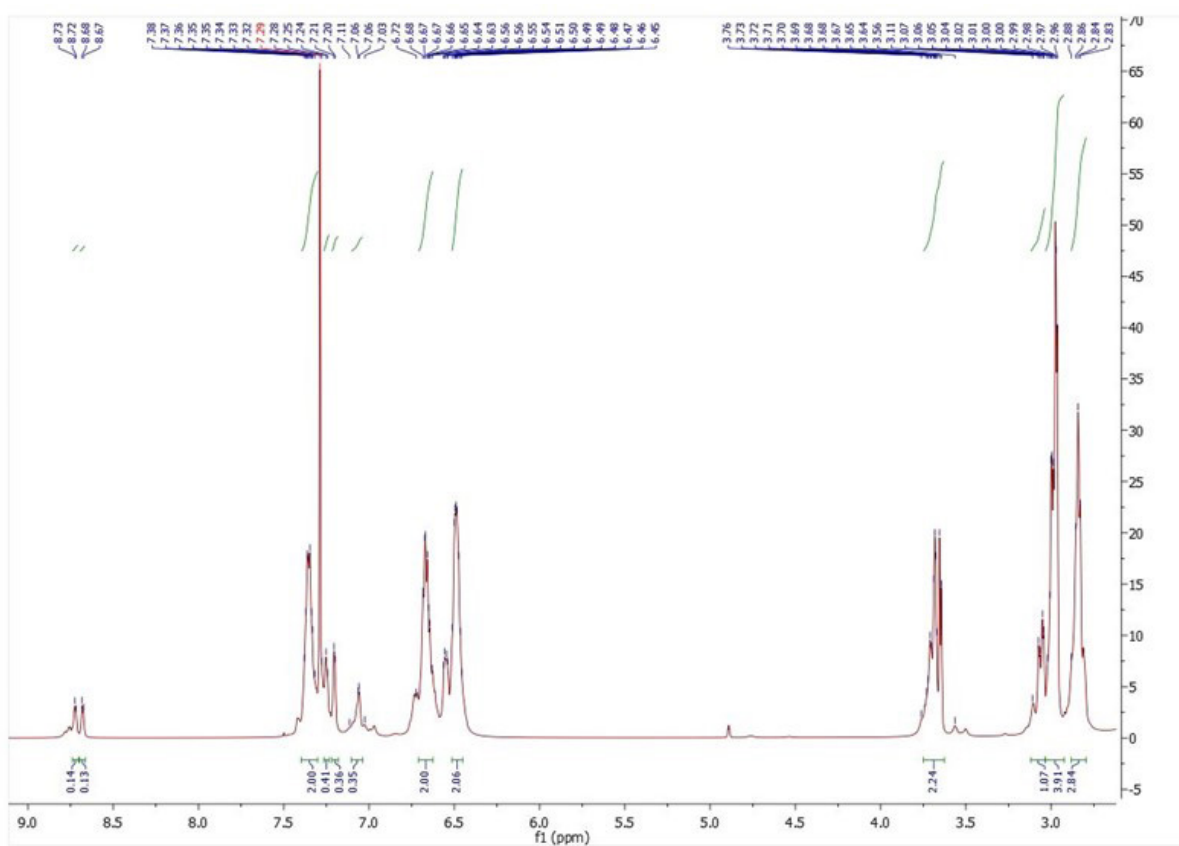


Fig. S5 ¹H-NMR spectrum of crude **10** (solvent: CDCl₃)

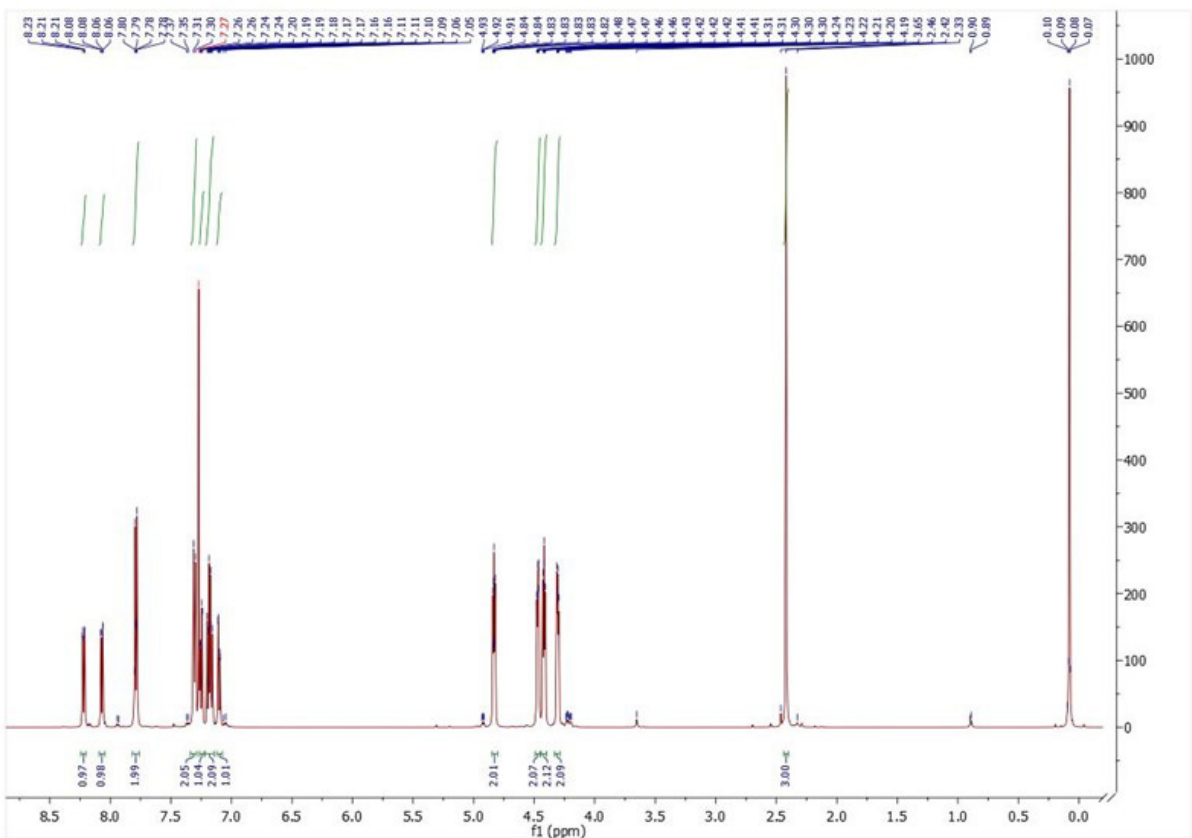


Fig. S6 ¹H-NMR spectrum of **12** (solvent: CDCl₃)

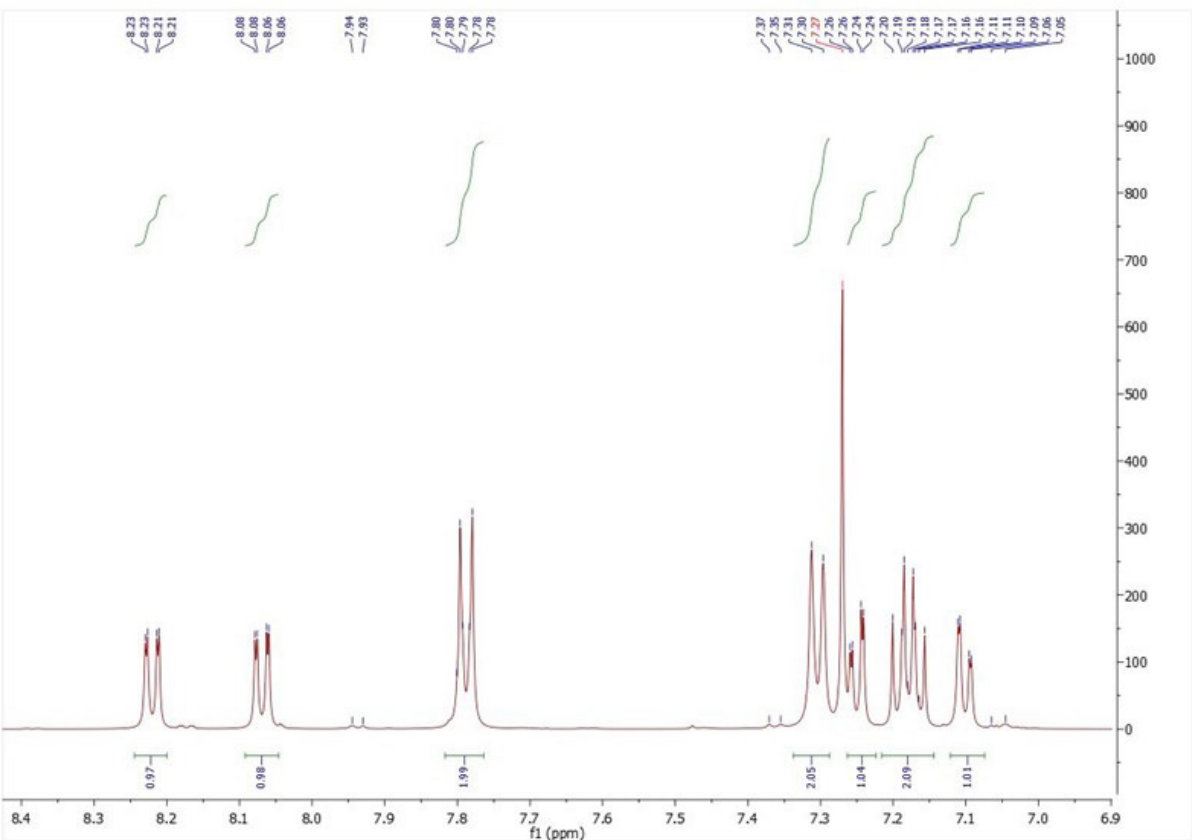


Fig. S7 ¹H-NMR spectrum of **12**, magnification of the aromatic signal range (solvent: CDCl₃)

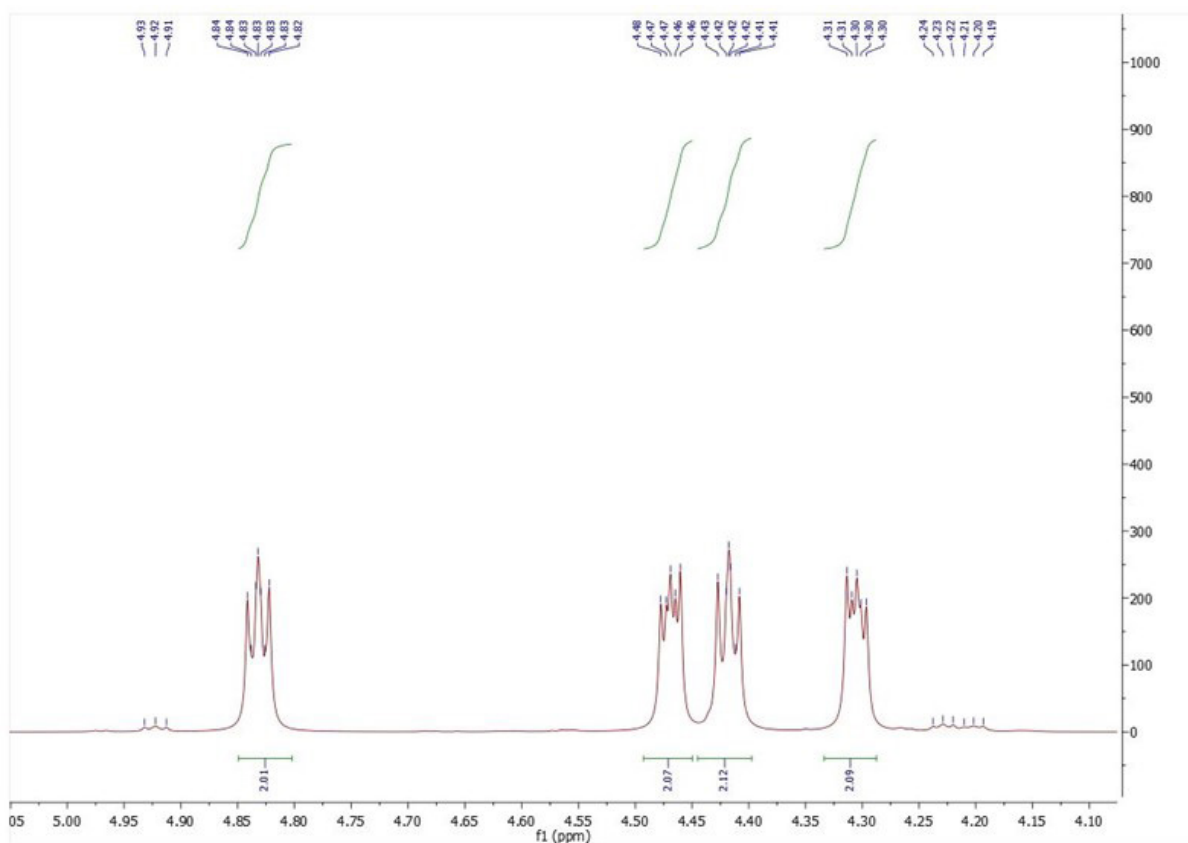


Fig. S8 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of **12**, magnification of the ethereal signal range (solvent: CDCl_3)

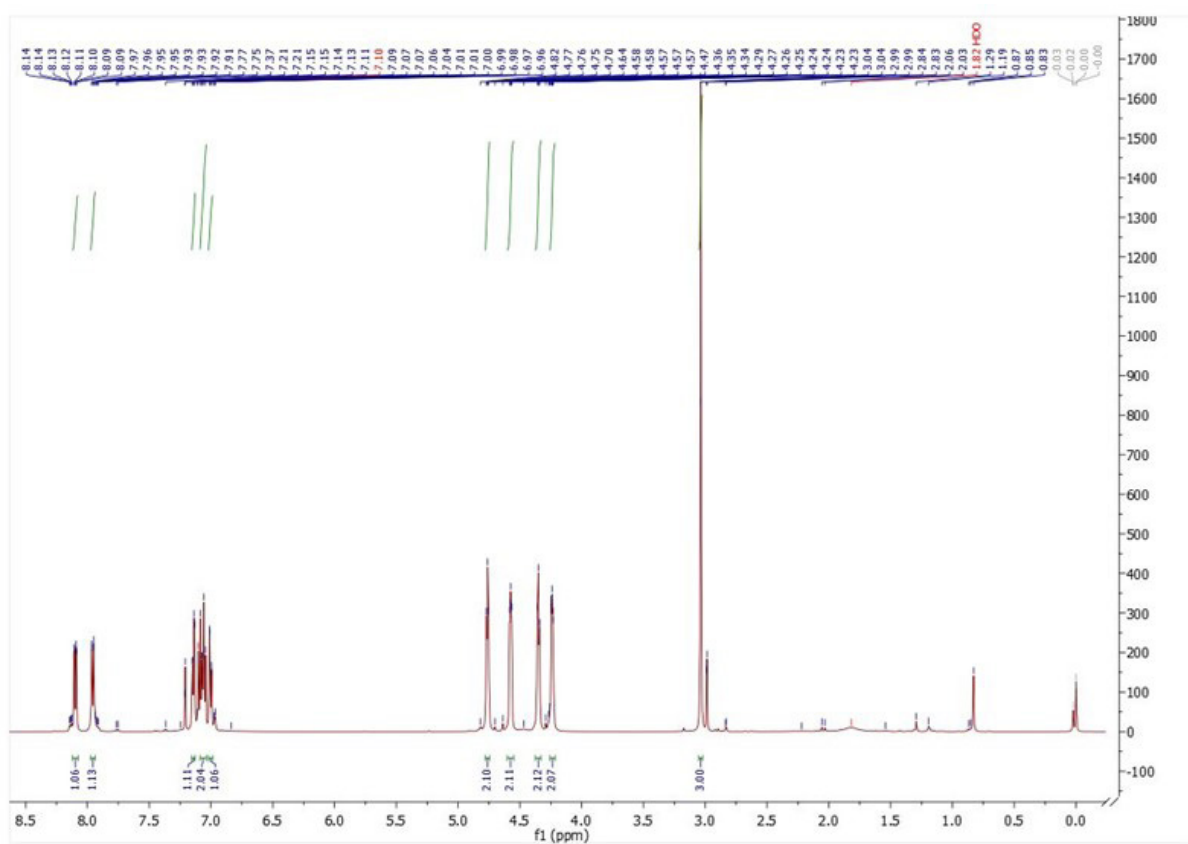


Fig. S9 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of **13** (solvent: CDCl_3)

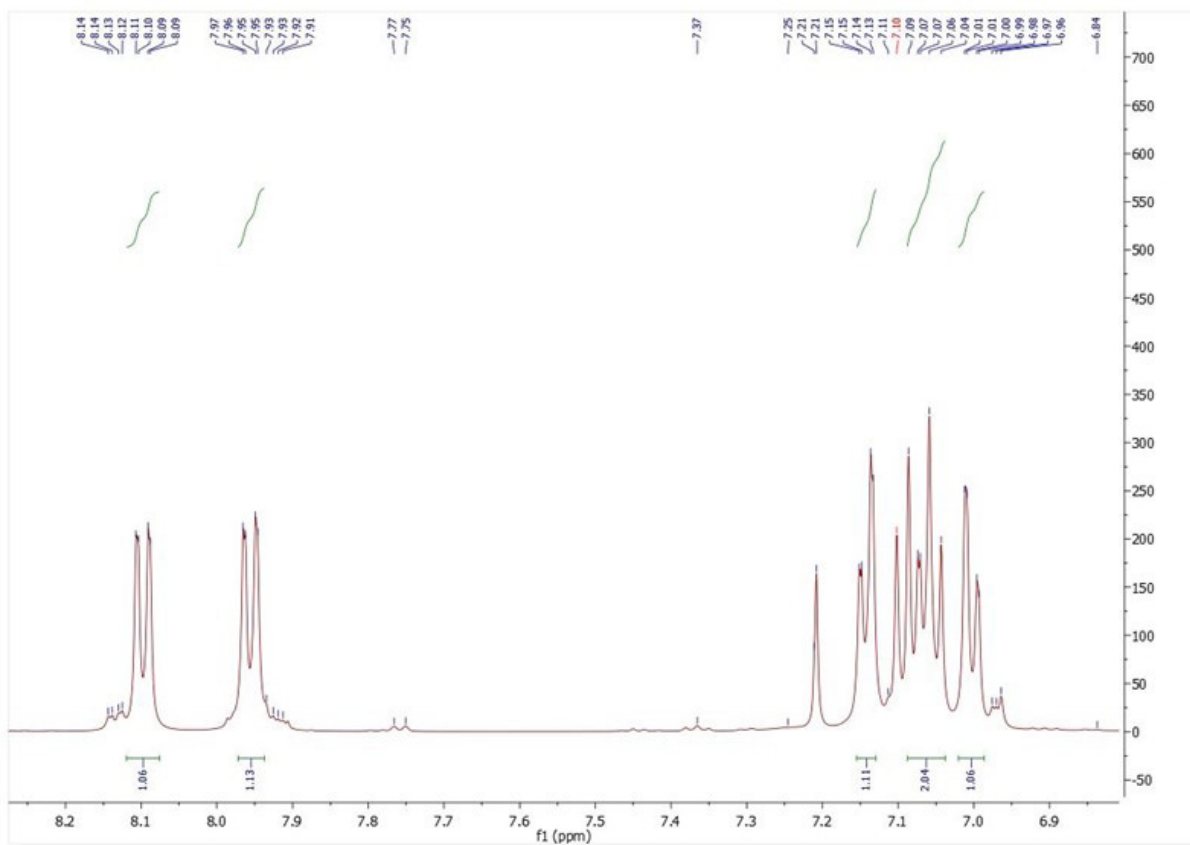


Fig. S10 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of **13**, magnification of the aromatic signal range (solvent: CDCl_3)

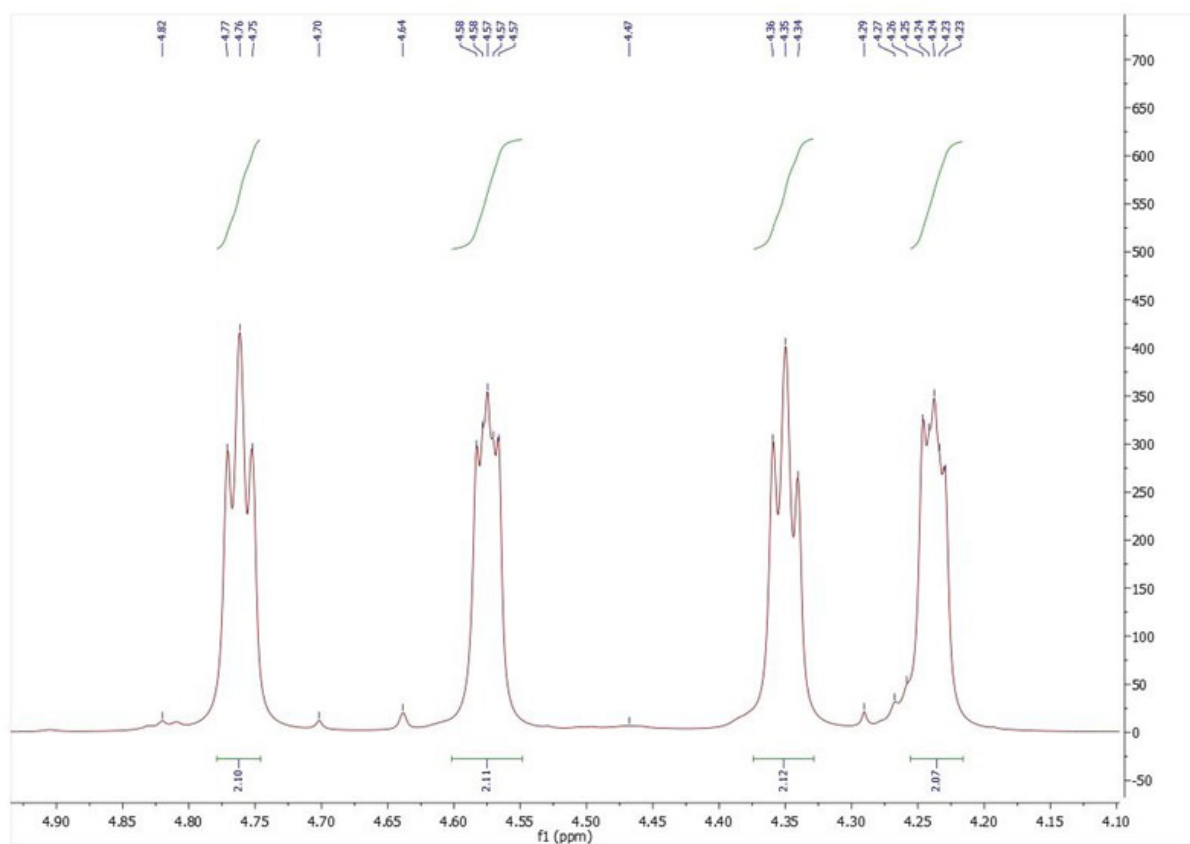


Fig. S11 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of **13**, magnification of the ethereal signal range (solvent: CDCl_3)

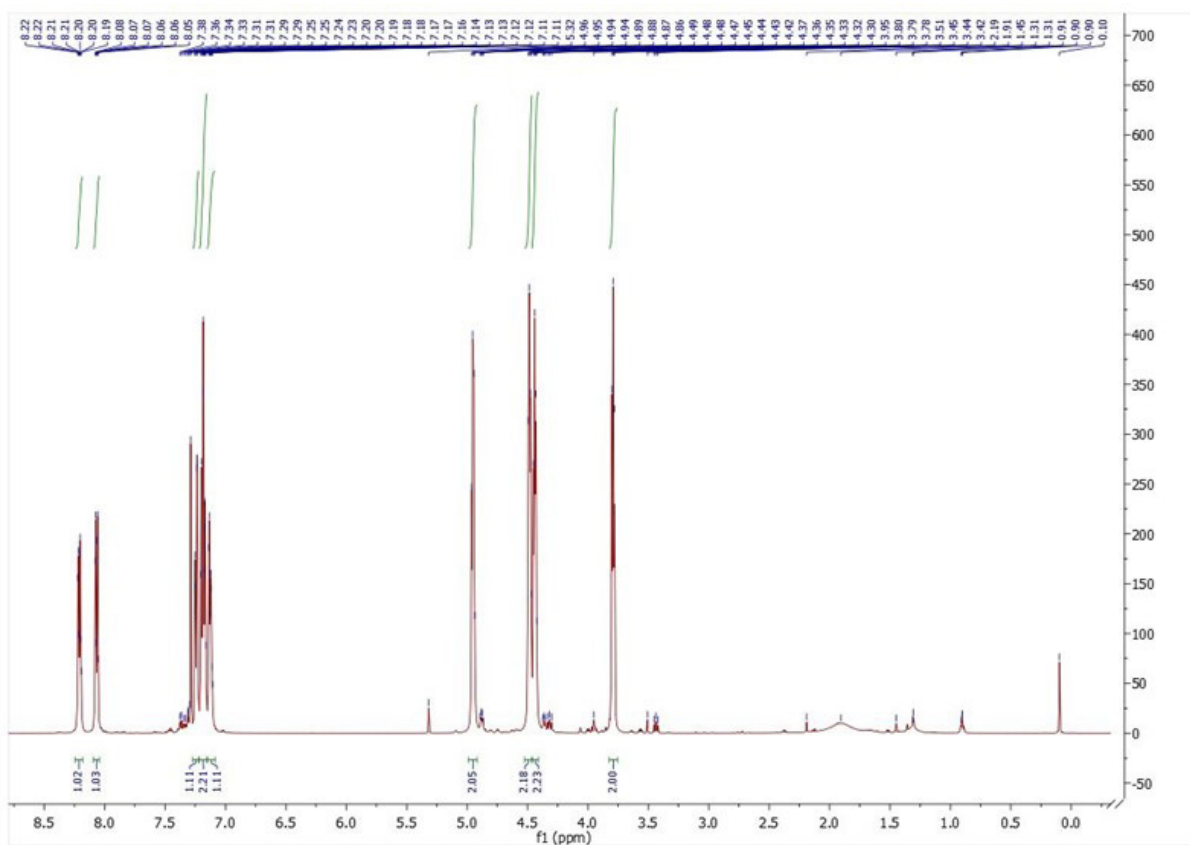


Fig. S12 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of **14** (solvent: CDCl_3)

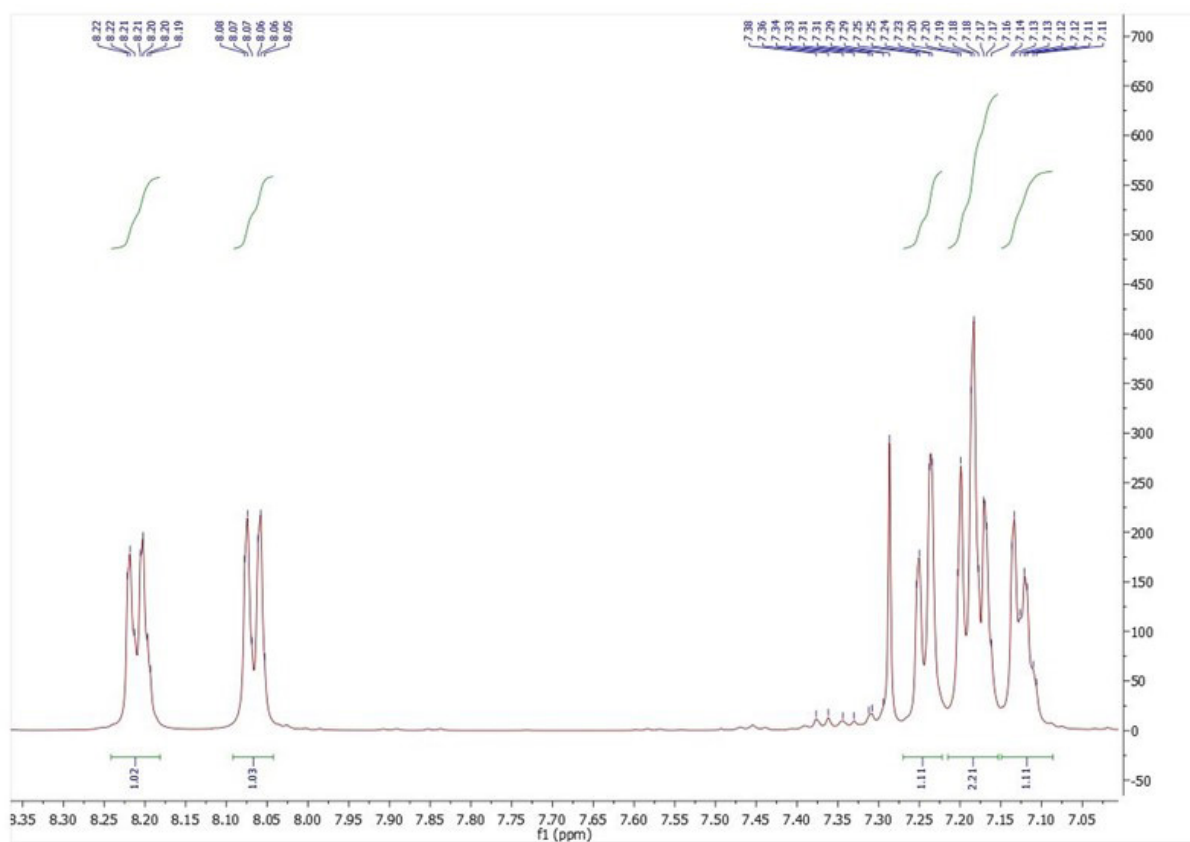


Fig. S13 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of **14**, magnification of the aromatic signal range (solvent: CDCl_3)

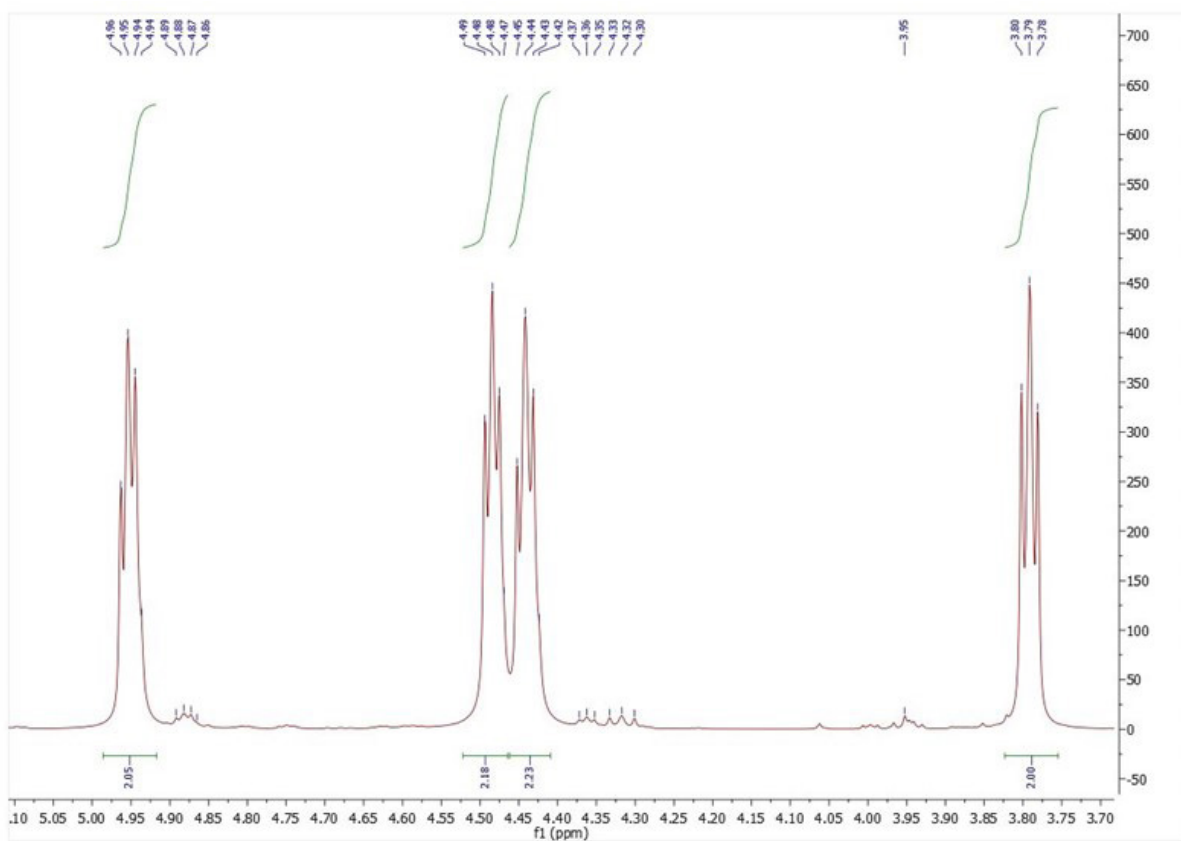


Fig. S14 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of **14**, magnification of the etheral signal range (solvent: CDCl_3)

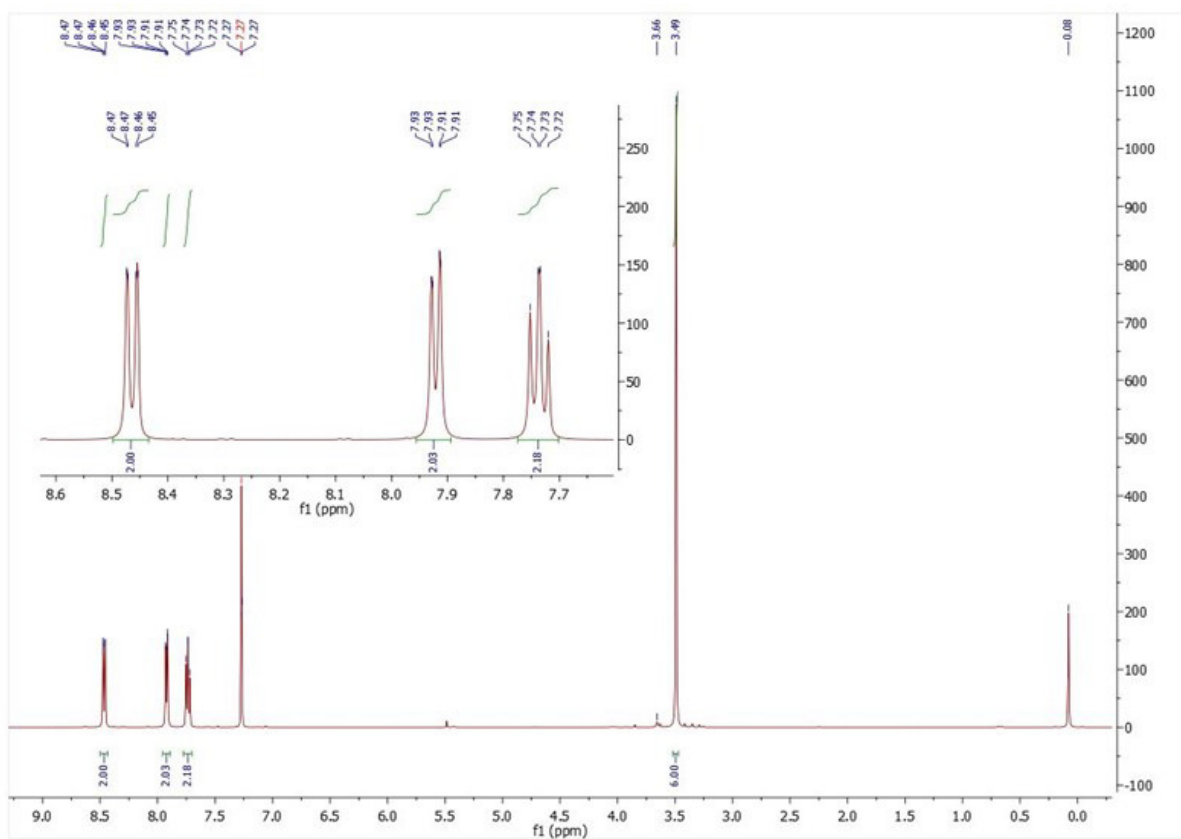


Fig. S15 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of **21** (solvent: CDCl_3)

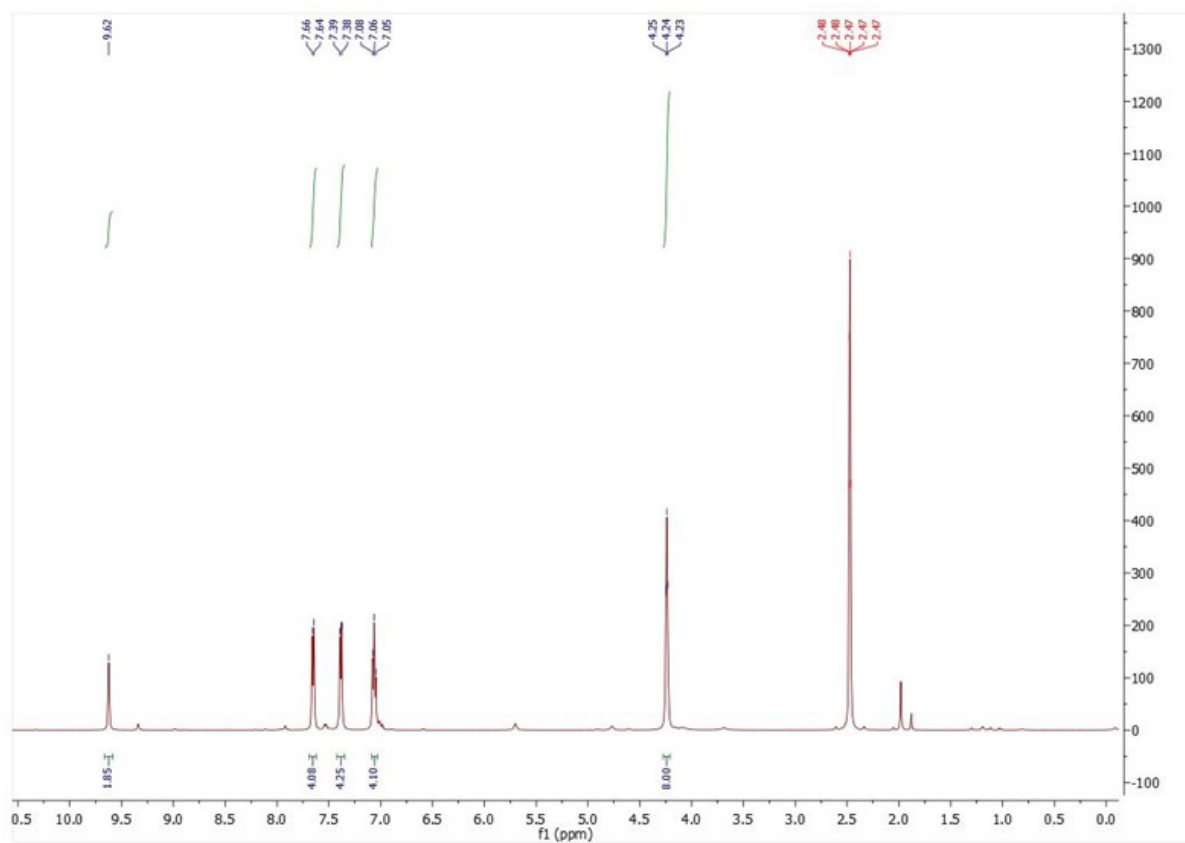


Fig. S16 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of **11** (solvent: $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$)

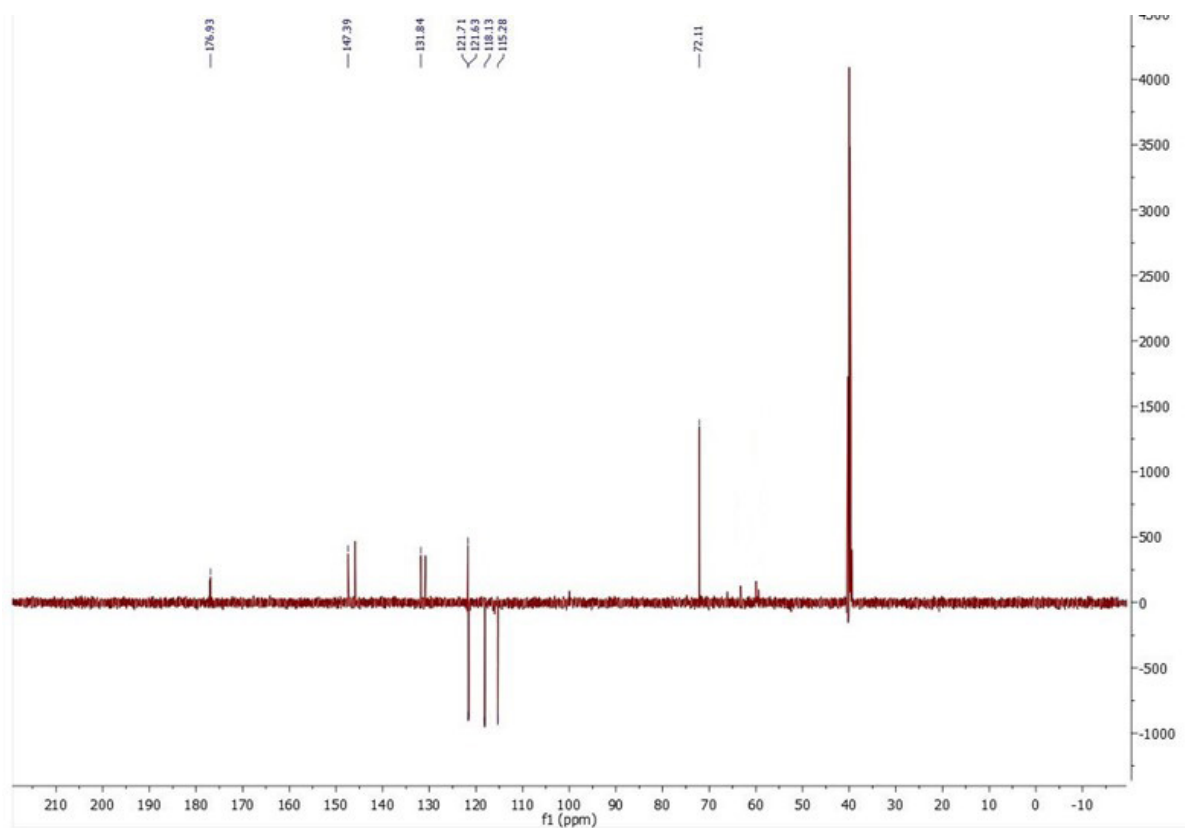


Fig. S17 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectrum of **11** (solvent: $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$)

2 Theoretically estimated conformation and structural flexibility

Some basic calculations on conformation were made by using ChemAxon Conformer Plugin® software. The obtained lowest energy conformer of the molecule can be seen in Fig. S18.

We have also highlighted some of the other characteristic conformers of **11** with higher energy levels, which can be seen in Fig. S19.

It is reflected from the calculated energies of the conformers, that only a relatively little distortion of

the structure is possible at room temperature. Even relatively small changes in the dihedral angles would result in large energetic differences (>100 kJ/mol, exceeding the typical energy barrier of atropisomers), thus the conversion between these conformers is strongly limited. According to the expectations, it indicates a rigid structure at room temperature. Rigid conformation and soft nucleophilic acridine-*N* atoms together result in high coordination and low differentiation ability toward soft electrophilic heavy-metal cations.

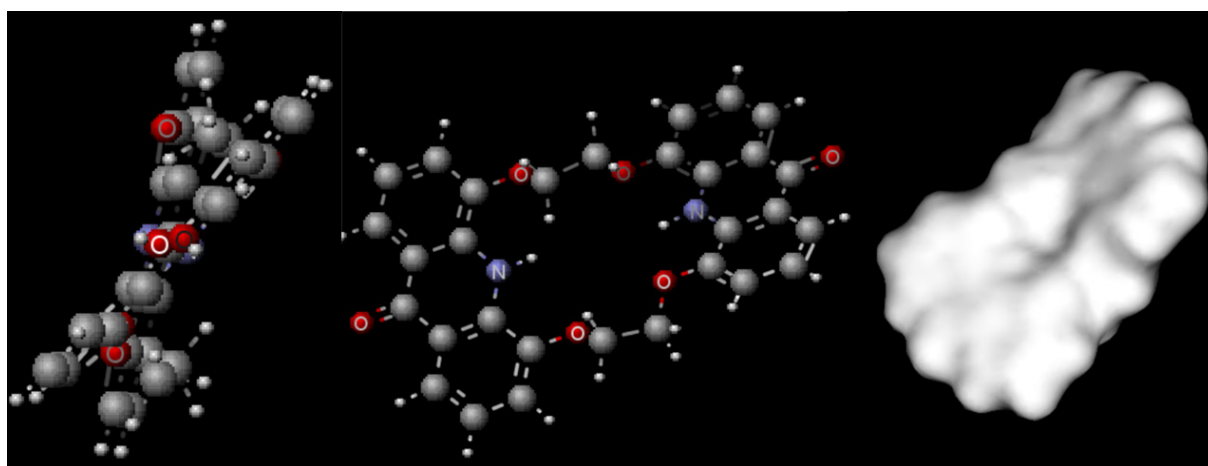


Fig. S18 The lowest energy conformer of the new bisacridono-crown ether **11** determined by ChemAxon Conformer Plugin® software (Fig. S18 shows different interpretations of the most stable conformer of a slightly twisted, almost planar 3D molecular structure; calculated energy: 425 kJ/mol)

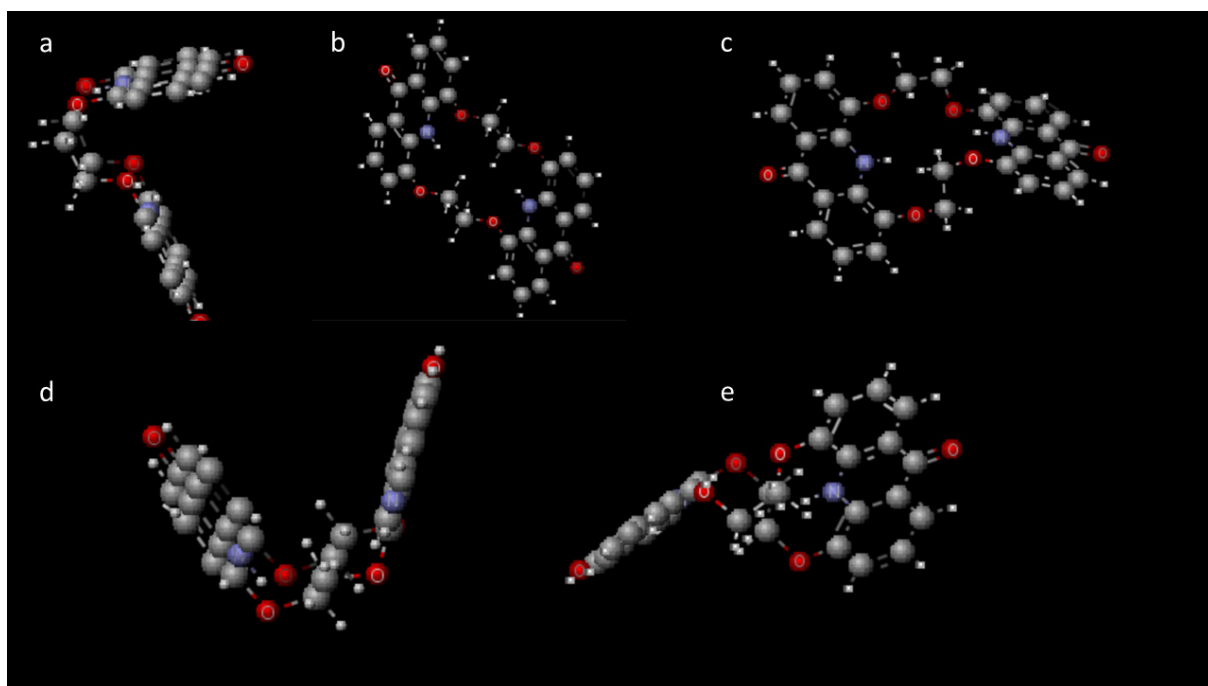


Fig. S19 Some less stable conformers (energy values calculated by ChemAxon Conformer Plugin® software for (a) chair-like conformer = 439 kJ/mol, for (b) fully planar conformer = 445 kJ/mol, for (c) partially twisted conformer = 449 kJ/mol, for (d) tub-like conformer = 530 kJ/mol, for (e) tightly twisted conformer = 532 kJ/mol)

3 Spectrophotometric investigation of new macrocycle **11**

The absorption and fluorescence emission spectra of the sensor molecule (**1**) are shown in **Figs. S20** and **S21**.

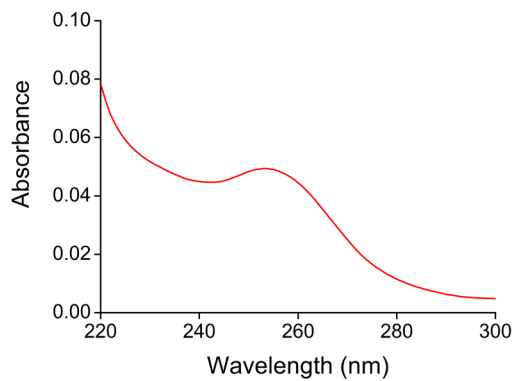


Fig. S20 UV/Vis absorption spectrum of new macrocycle **11** in acetonitrile

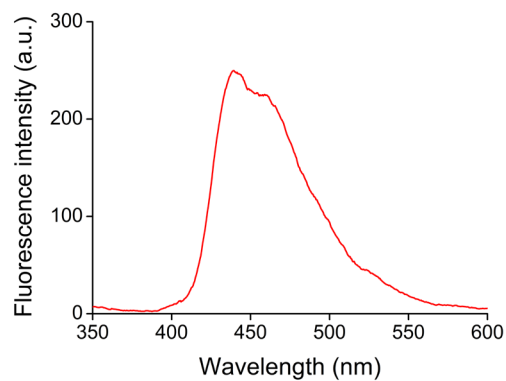


Fig. S21 Fluorescence emission spectrum of new macrocycle **11** in acetonitrile ($\lambda_{ex.} = 265$ nm)